Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, The Germans from Russia first migrated from Germany to South Russia when Catherine II, with the help of Alexander I, Czar of Russia, published a manifesto that invited foreigners to settle in New Russia; and,

Whereas, German immigrants accepted the invitation and founded many colonies from the countryside they bought from Russian nobles, but the Russian government soon withdrew the special privileges granted to these settlers and forced them to leave Russia; and,

Whereas, Descendants of the Germans from Russia started the Germans from Russia Heritage Society that now has a home office in Bismarck, North Dakota, that houses an excellent research library for all interested parties; and,

Whereas, The Germans from Russia Heritage Society will be having their 33rd Annual International Convention in Rapid City, South Dakota, from September 4-7, 2003, with a Ukrainian college professor, Inna Stryukova, as one of the guest speakers; and,

Whereas, The convention's opening ceremony will be held on Friday, September 5, 2003, at 8:30 a.m. MDT at the Ramkota Hotel and Convention Center with an anticipated attendance of 500-800 participants from all over the nation:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim September 5, 2003, as

GERMANS FROM RUSSIA DAY

in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Seventh Day of August in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Three.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State